

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 303503 TOSEC 250014

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PFOR, VE, EG, US, UN

SUBJECT: ACTION MEMORANDUM - POSSIBLE UNSC MEETING
TERRORISM (S/S NO.7525286)

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM SISCO/DAY

1. YOU WILL HAVE SEEN CAIRO 13015 IN WHICH FAHMY SUGGESTS
WE ENCOURAGE VENEZUELAN TO CALL SC MEETING ON TERRORISM,
HIS THOUGHT BEING THAT THIS MIGHT DELAY JANUARY 12
MEETING ON THE ME. I PERSONALLY DOUBT IT WOULD HAVE THIS
EFFECT. BUT NEVERTHELESS, SINCE FAHMY'S PURPOSE IS A GOOD
ONE, WE OUGHT TO EXPLORE IT CAREFULLY AND DELICATELY. THE
FACTS ARE THESE. VENEZUELA HAS MADE A PUBLIC STATEMENT IN
FAVOR OF A SPECIAL GA ON TERRORISM. OUR EMBASSY IN
CARACAS HAS TOLD US THE VENEZUELAN HAVE INDICATED THEY
WOULD LIKE OUR SUPPORT. THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THE
VENEZUELAN ARE SERIOUS IN THEIR PROPOSALS, BUT IT IS TOO

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EARLY TO BE CERTAIN. WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE VENEZUELAN

ARE CONSULTING BROADLY WITH OTHER LATIN AMERICANS. MOREOVER, IF WE DO NOT HANDLE ANY APPROACH TO THE VENEZUELANS CAREFULLY, IT COULD TEND TO TURN THEM OFF RATHER THAN ON. FINALLY, I CANNOT RECALL ANY SC MEETING ON TERRORISM WHEN THE ISRAELIS HAVE NOT ENDED UP IN THE DOCK EVEN THOUGH IN MANY OF THE INCIDENTS CONSIDERED BY

THE COUNCIL, THE MERITS OF THE CASE WERE ON THE SIDE OF THE ISRAELIS. NEVERTHELESS, AN INFORMAL TAPPING OF THE PRESENT VENEZUELAN ATTITUDE WOULD BE IN ORDER.

2. IF YOU AGREE WITH THE ABOVE, I WILL HAVE OUR CHARGE IN CARACAS EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY OF THE VENEZUELANS CONSIDERING AN EARLY SC MEETING, LEAVING OPEN THE POSSIBILITY OF A SPECIAL GA WHICH REQUIRES MUCH MORE ORGANIZING, INCLUDING POLLING ENTIRE MEMBERSHIP OF THE UN.

3. HERE IS THE CABLE WE WOULD SEND TO CARACAS:

A. FOR CHARGE FROM SISCO

B. WE ARE, OF COURSE, INTERESTED IN THE VENEZUELAN PROPOSAL THAT A SPECIAL UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION BE HELD ON THE SUBJECT OF TERRORISM IN THE WAKE OF THE INCIDENT INVOLVING THE OPEC MINISTERS. IT OCCURS TO US, HOWEVER, THAT A SPECIAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION REQUIRES EXTENSIVE AND TIME-CONSUMING PREPARATION, DURING WHICH THE EFFECT OF THE OPEC AFFAIR WILL TEND TO DISSIPATE, AND WE WONDER IF THE VENEZUELANS MIGHT NOT WANT TO CONSIDER A SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING INSTEAD. WE RECOGNIZE THAT ANY APPEARANCE OF OUR WANTING TO TAKE OVER THIS INITIATIVE WOULD TEND TO DISCOURAGE THE VENEZUELANS AND OTHERS FROM PROCEEDING, BUT SINCE THEY HAVE ASKED FOR OUR SUPPORT WE HAVE A BASIS TO DISCUSS THE MATTER WITH THEM. OUR APPROACH SHOULD BE VERY LOW-KEY.

C. YOU SHOULD, THEREFORE, APPROACH HIGHEST APPROPRIATE LEVEL IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, SAYING THAT WITH OUR LONG HISTORY OF OPPOSITION TO TERRORISM WE NATURALLY WELCOME EFFORTS TO BRING INTERNATIONAL ATTENTION TO THE PROBLEM
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AND TO THE MEANS OF DEALING WITH IT. WITHOUT WANTING IN ANY WAY TO INJECT OURSELVES INTO THE VENEZUELAN INITIATIVE, WE WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FURTHER WHAT THE VENEZUELANS HAVE IN MIND AND TO PASS ALONG THE THOUGHT THAT, IF THEY SHOULD WISH TO INVOLVE THE UN, THEY MIGHT CONSIDER A SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING. A SPECIAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION WOULD TAKE CONSIDERABLE TIME TO PREPARE, INVOLVING AS IT DOES THE

POLLING OF ALL UN MEMBERS, AND IN SITUATIONS SUCH AS THIS IT CAN BE USEFUL TO MOVE QUICKLY WHILE THE EVENT GIVING RISE TO THE UN ACTIVITY IS FRESH IN EVERYONE'S MIND. OUR THOUGHT IS THAT A COUNCIL MEETING CAN BE ORGANIZED QUITE QUICKLY AND COULD CAPITALIZE ON WIDESPREAD REACTION TO THE OPEC AFFAIR. NEEDLESS TO SAY, THIS IS ENTIRELY UP TO VENEZUELANS.

D. IF THE VENEZUELANS ASK WHETHER WE WOULD SUPPORT CONVOYING THE COUNCIL ON THIS SUBJECT, YOU SHOULD SAY THAT IT IS OUR STANDING POSITION THAT A UN MEMBER WANTING TO BRING A MATTER TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL FOR CONSIDERATION THERE SHOULD BE ABLE TO DO SO.

4. WE WOULD HAVE HERMANN TELL FAHMY THE FOLLOWING:

A. SECRETARY WANTS FAHMY TO KNOW THAT HE BELIEVES HIS IDEA OF ENCOURAGING THE VENEZUELANS TO MOVE AHEAD ON A SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING ON TERRORISM IS CONSTRUCTIVE AND IMAGINATIVE. WE WILL EXPLORE THE MATTER WITH THE VENEZUELANS, BEARING IN MIND THAT WE ARE NOT CLEAR AS TO HOW SERIOUS THE VENEZUELANS ARE ON SEIZING THE UN. IN THIS CONNECTION FAHMY SHOULD KNOW THAT VENEZUELAN PUBLIC STATEMENTS CALL FOR A SPECIAL GA AND PART OF OUR DISCUSSION WITH VENEZUELANS WILL BE TO ENCOURAGE EARLY SC MEETING INSTEAD.

B. WE BELIEVE VENEZUELANS ULTIMATE DECISION WILL BE MOST DECISIVELY INFLUENCED BY ATTITUDE OF OTHER LATIN AMERICANS. MOREOVER, SECRETARY WONDERS WHETHER FAHMY FEELS THAT EITHER EGYPTIANS OR SAUDIS MIGHT THEMSELVES TAKE A QUIET INITIATIVE PROMPTLY WITH THE VENEZUELANS TO INDICATE INTEREST ON THEIR PART IN AN EARLY SC MEETING

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IN LIEU OF A SPECIAL GA WHICH, BECAUSE IT WOULD TAKE TIME TO ORGANIZE, COULD FAIL TO CAPITALIZE ON CURRENT WIDESPREAD REACTION TO OPEC INCIDENT. IF SC IS TO BE SEIZED, IT SHOULD BE DONE AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE AFTER THE OPEC EVENTS.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS:

A. THAT YOU APPROVE CABLE TO CARACAS.

APPROVE DISAPPROVE

B. THAT YOU APPROVE CABLE TO CAIRO.

APPROVE DISAPPROVE

6. CLEARED: ARA:HRYAN; IO:SLEWIS; S:J.COVEY

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